Practical Jokes He Played Before He Reformed.

Former State Senator Frederick S. Gibbs. | big conference. Thus Mr. Gibbs now believed to be dying at Asbury Park, is a born humorist. In seizing the right moment for a practical joke he has at times

shown almost genius. The late Sunset Cox said that too much humor and the reputation of being a funny man seriously handicapped any one in public life, but Mr. Gibbs is, doubtless the exception to prove the rule. He is now rich and has a collection of paintings valued at more than \$100,000. Strange to say there is not a genre sketch depicting the humorous side of life in it.

Yet his reputation has had its effect in some ways. Born in a town of straitlaced traditions, Glens Falls, N. Y., his former townsmen are said to have looked at him askance since he gained the nickname of the "Wicked Gibbs." The good people there refused to accept the adjective as Pickwickian and wondered how he climbed so high in New York, the city that first called him "Wicked."

Then, when Senator Hanna, as chairman of the Republican National Committee, came to New York in 1896 to take charge of the campaign, he was prepared to admire the political sagacity of Mr. Gibbs, who was Republican National Committeeman from New York State, but he feared his practical jokes. It was necessary for some of Mr. Gibbs's friends to explain to Mr. Hanna that the ex-Senator was making a sincere effort to reform.

Senator T. C. Platt, in particular, reassured Mr. Hanna and said that the famous joker read Omar Khayyam and Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy" daily to divert

his mind from things humorous. Thereafter Mr. Hanna and Mr. Gibbs became fast friends and all the political cartoons for posting purposes were turned over to the New York National Committeeman to inspect. During the entire campaign Mr. Gibbs never even attempted to play a practical joke on any member of the campaign committee, but gave them able advice and assistance. To this day Senator Hanna thinks that the stories of the practical jokes played by Mr. Gibbs are apocryphal and the result of a syndicate of humorists.

Nevertheless, Senator Chauncey M. Depew's diplomacy was sorely tried once, to placate a carful of passengers who were the victims of one of Mr. Gibbs's most successful practical jokes. Mr. Gibbs was then a State Senator, known everywhere as the "Wicked," and was at the zenith of his career as a joker.

He was coming from Albany to New York and as he started to enter a car attached to a train that had arrived from Buffalo, he heard a brakeman say that something was the matter with one of the wheels and that the car would have to be cut out, that is, left in Albany. It was a handsomely uphols ered car, and when he entered he noticed that the passengers were enjoying its comforts to the fullest extent, so much so that they made no movement to make room for any one else.

Slowly he passed through the aisle. He saw several seats for two occupied substantially as follows:

"There is no such thing as politeness in this world. I have been treated rudely. No one in this car has offered me a seat; and for this unpardonable rudeness I intend to have this car cut out and left here. I mean it."

The passengers not only laughed, but booted at him.

"I will laugh last," he cried, as he slammed the door and went to another car.

The car was duly cut out and the passengers were furious. They trooped into the front car and saw Mr Gibbs taking his | receives a good salary. ease in a good seat. They shook their fists at him and said he was too mean for anything. They imagined that he was either a director or an officer of the road and, spitefully, had had the car cut out.

All the way to New York they hurled unpleasant epithets at him, but he said nothing and laughed immoderately. When the train arrived in New York a committee of angry passengers waited upon Mr. Depew, then president of the Central road and protested against the outrage. They wanted revenge.

Mr. Depew declared that no officer the company, no director, not even the elder Mr. Vanderbilt, would be guilty of such conduct. They described the personal appearance of Mr. Gibbs, and Mr. Depew said the laugh was on them. "You are the victims," he added, "of a

powerful humorist and practical joker." Soon he read them a message from Albany saying that the car was disabled and had to be left and that Senator Gibbs was on the train. Since this incident when a car is cut out on the Central road the brakeman always tells the passengers why it is

title of "the Great Constitutional Lawyer' was once bestowed, turned the tables on Mr. Gibbs. Several years ago the Republican State Convention was held in Rochester and Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Backus were delegates. The former saw the name "Backus" on a sign in front of a big store and going in asked if he could write a note

He was invited to seat himself at a desk. and on the firm's stationery he penned a cordial invitation to Henry Clinton Backus to call at the store and meet his long lost cousin, who was anxious to greet the distinguished constitutional lawyer, prove the kinship between them, and open champagne. The name of the merchant Backus was duly signed to this epistle and it was sent by a messenger to Lawyer Backus

When Lawyer Backus called at the store asked for the merchant, shook hands with him cordially and said that upon receipt of the note he had left an important conference with Senators Platt and Depew and other big Republicans to meet his

Merchant Backus became indignant and declared he had written no note, and was not looking up cousins. Lawyer Backus produced the note, saying, "Do you deny

your own handwriting?" Explanations followed, Merchant Backus was delighted to meet the constitutional lawyer, and what is more it turned out that they were related. Champagne was opened and it was late before Delegate Backus reached his hotel-too late for the

foiled, but not suppressed

Some of his most amusing jokes were entirely impromptu. Passing in front of a big dry goods store in West Twenty-third street, he noticed a swell turnout at the curb with the door open. The footman and coachman, with tight fitting livery on,

sat in front, stolidly looking ahead. Mr. Gibbs shut the carriage door with a bang, raised his hat to imaginary ladies inside and said to the coachman

The equipage dashed away just as two women, elegantly attired, came out of the store and caught sight of the fast disappearing vehicle.

Mr. Gibbs has a theory that a political awyer should be equal to any occasion. One night at a political meeting in his district he got up and in a sad tone said that he regretted to announce the sudden death of Ephraim Dusenberry, whose brilliant career was just beginning.

No such person as Dusenberry existed. but the joker desired to have some fun at the expense of a well known lawyer present, noted for his seriousness and inability to see a joke. Turning to the lawyer the humorist said:

"You knew Mr. Dusenberry well: I hope you will make a few appropriate remarks upon this sad occasion."

The lawyer arose and delivered a speech in eulogy of Mr, Dusenberry that occupied an hour. He said Mr. Dusenberry was his bosom friend and also the friend of Conkling. To the hilarious astonishment of Mr. Gibbs and those present the lawyer declared that he owed much to Mr. Dusenberry, and wound up by quoting Burns's closing lines to the memory of the Earl of Glencairn, substituting "my friend" for

The bridegroom may forget the bride Was made his wedded wife yestreen: The Monarch may forget the crown That on his head an hour hath been; The mother may forget the child That smiles sac sweetly on her knee;

But I'll remember thee, my friend, And all that thou hast done for me, Mr. Gibbs and his circle of friends almos wept and, shaking the hand of the lawyer, declared it was the finest eulogy they had ever heard. It was moved and carried that the speech be printed and sent to Mr.

Dusenbery's widow. The lawyer dis-

covered the deception and now never

speaks to the joker. Sol Berliner, the present American Consul at Teneriffe, Canary Islands, was a political pupil of Mr. Gibbs, and his appointment is the result of the ex-Senator's propensity for perpetrating practical jokes. In his usual serious way he asked Mr. Berliner whether he would prefer to go as Consul to Dahomey or the Canary Islands. Mr. Berliner, who is musical, promptly said he would like the home of the song

birds. A petition was drawn up by Mr. Gibbs with much flourish, recounting in sophomorical style the eminent fitness of Mr. Solomon Berliner to fill the office of Consul by one, but these passengers sat so as to at Teneriffe. All the big Republicans fill the seats and never moved. At the from Senator Platt down signed it, some end of the car the Senator turned and spoke adding: "Sol is all right, if the island can And it was unnecessary, because a resupport him."

> Mr. Berliner was duly appointed and when Mr. Gibbs and his friends informed him of the great honor conferred, the new Consul asked what was the amount of the annual salary or fees.

"About \$150," came in chorus from the joker's friends.

The new Consul gasped, and finally said he would accept and do his duty. It should be added that Mr. Berliner has made an efficient Consul, has increased the trade between this country and the islands and

It would take several volumes to recount in detail the many jokes Mr. Gibbs has successfully played. He made some enemies, of course, but a majority who suffered from his humor took it good naturedly. One joke of his caused an ambitious politician to doubt his wife's veracity | girlish outlines. as to her age.

One starlight night, at his club, he sat near a window and asked a prominent Judge, his confederate, to give him "the mathematical horoscope" of the stars. The local politician sat near and watched

the proceedings.

Looking out of the window the Judge called off the following, which Mr. Gibbs put on paper: "Arcturus, 398—40; Orion, put on paper: "Arcturus, 308-40; Orion, 176+210; deduct the sign of the Gemini and add for the approach to the perihelion."
Mr. Gibbs figured for five minutes and

said:
"This makes you 58 years old; is that

"This makes you 58 years old; is that correct?"

The Judge replied in the affirmative.

The politician thought no one present knew his age and asked Mr. Gibbs to find it out by means of the stars. Mr. Gibbs had carefully learned it beforehand. He got the Judge to call off some more jargon and astonished the politician by working out his age correctly. By request, he next worked out the age of the politician's wife, which he did not know. He said her horoscope showed her to be 56.

"I knew it, I felt it!" exclaimed the excited politician. "She and her mother say she is only 32, but I have doubted them all along."

MAN AND BEAR ON A LOG.

but Couldn't. From the Morning Oregonian

Conductor Dave Houston of the South-ern Pacific Railroad, who is taking a ten days' vacation at Seaside, had a thrilling experience with a big bear which he will not soon forget. He only told a few of the incidents, as he desired to keep it quiet, but incidents, as he desired to keep it quiet, but the story eaked out. Conductor Houston is a great fisherman, and never lets an opportunity slip to cast the line. He had hardly got settled at the seaside when he went out on the Necanicum River to have a fish all by himself. He made his way through the brush until he came to a log, one end of which projected out into the creek. "That's the very place," thought the conductor, and, adjusting his line and pole, he crept out on the log, where he found himself comfortably perched above the cool water of Necanicum Creek. Houston lighted his tried and trusty pipe and then cast his line. He fished and smoked perhaps an hour without getting a bite

smoked perhaps an hour without getting a bite.
Suddenly there was a movement in the bushes back of him, and then he felt the log he was sitting on tremble. Instinctively the conductor turned around, when to his amazement he gazed into the face of a black bear. The latter seemed to be sizing him up and estimating how much of a meal the conductor would make, and whether he would "scrap" when it came to the point. For the conductor there seemed no escape. The bear sat complaisantly on the shore end of the log, and it was not possible for Conductor Houston to get past the monster. The bear held him there for several hours before a hunter came along and killed the animal. The bear weighed 250 pounds when dressed. Conductor Houston now has a few more gray hairs in his head as the result of his experience.

CAN'T WORK AND GET THIN TOO time of her first successes outside of Tony TOWN'S FULL OF STRANGERS.

REDUCTION CURES FOR BUSY WOMEN MUST BE MILD.

Starvation With Accompanying Physical and Mental Activity Means Illness -Maxine Elliott's Case-Mrs. Langtry's Moderate Plan-Methods of Others.

Maxine Elliott, who has returned from Europe with a slender figure and shattered nerves, is not the first actress to learn that flesh reduction in the case of women who work may have very disagreeable effects. Women of leisure may attempt this reduction with impunity. But workers must be careful about the measures they take to preserve or recover their slight figures.

Miss Elliott, who is soon to begin her career as a star, knows that she is a rival of Ethel Barrymore and other slim young women of the type admired so much in American girlhood. She wants to hold her own against them, although she is older.

She set out to do it by being quite as thin anyway, and she adopted a most strenuous method of getting down to the proportions she thought desirable. Throughout her vacation in England last summer Miss Elliot followed as strict a regimen of diet as any woman well could. She not only gave up sweets and starches, liquids at meals and other such indulgences, but she gave up all the food she possibly could and practically starved herself all summer.

If she had been an idle woman and might rest and nurse her health after this trying course of treatment, she might have recovered her girlhood outlines without danger to her health. But she is a very busy woman, about to begin the most important phase of her career as an actress. She had a long part to learn and arduous rehearsals to go through.

That was not the kind of occupation t follow such a summer as Miss Elliott had spent. So her friends observed that she was unusually nervous and was likely to burst into tears without much provocation. Then the physicians came and told Miss Elliott she had been getting too thin in too short a time for a woman who had hard work before her. They prescribed rest and a good dinner for several days, and promised that it would not be long before she would be herself again. Most reduction cures are more natura

in their effects than this. "People don't always follow the treatment rationally," said a physician, discussing Miss Elliott's case. "If they did, there would be no danger to any of them. Any man or woman who gives up fattening foods and ceases to drink water with meals is not only going to feel very much better after eating, but will be permanently improved in health if the abstinence is continued long enough. But to take the place of food that is given up the woman who wants to get thin must eat meat.

"She can eat all the beef, chicken, lamb or mutton she wants to take the place of the prohibited articles; and if she neglects to eat these substitutes for fattening food she will regret it. More than ever must she keep herself well built up if she is a woman who works, and she must also take a rest to recover herself before she returns to her occupation.

"The late Fanny Davenport when she wanted to produce 'Fedora' in this country realized that she had grown too stout. and started in hurriedly to get thin. She did it in rather an unscientific way, eating a great deal of salad and even potatoes soaked in vinegar, and walking long distances, leaving her system unsupplied with adequate nourishment. She got the fat off, but she never recovered during the rest of her life from the strain of the 'cure. In spite of her naturally strong constitution, that weakened her irrecoverably. duction cure could have been without any such results."

Some of the women opera singers have tried reduction cures which had very disagreeable results, although a return to more liberal diet always brought them back to health again. Calvé lost practically half a season here from the evil effects of her treatment. This consisted in taking regular doses of a strong acid which is rarely used except for external application. Somebody-probably Mme. de Thébes of Paris, the clairvoyant in whom Calvé has so much faith, told her to take this acid internally. Mme. Calvé followed that adrice and became girlishly thin, but she was left in such a weakened condition by the treatment that she lost half of her appearances that season. She has now grown very stout again, but has announced that she will make no such effort to recover her

Mme. Sembrich six years ago took a scientific cure under the care of Dr. Schweninger, and as a result of the extreme reduction in flesh that she underwent her contract at the Italian Opera House in St Petersburg had to be cancelled after only a third of the time had elapsed. She had exhausted herself so completely that her nerves broke down.

To Mme. Eames's determination to keep herself thin at any cost is attributed much of her ill health in the last two seasons The American prima donna in addition to her own desire to keep thin believes that everybody eats too much and that to this excess many evils of life are attributable. This is one of Mme. Eames's tendencies to Christian Science and other beliefs of that character. So she scarcely eats enough to keep a woman of her vigorous constitution, and her physicians have often told her in the last four years that she would be in much better health if she could persuade herself to eat more.

There are other instances of women having injured their health permanently by excessive dieting. Della Fox's health began to fail first after she had taken a rigorous reduction cure. Fay Templeton several years ago had a contract with E. E. Rice by which she was to receive \$250 a week on condition that her weight was down to 150 pounds three weeks before the beginning of the season. She was more than 170 when that provisional contract was made. During the summer she dieted vigorously, took more exercise than she ever had before and a week before the time for her to begin rehearsals was down to

She went to Mr. Rice's office to see if a modus vivendi could not be established by which she could escape the penalty of not ridding herself of those last two pounds. But Mr. Rice was obdurate. The salary

152 pounds.

was a large one and he was willing to let Miss Templeton keep her two pounds only on condition that she let him off \$50a week. But the actress wanted the money too. "Well, I'm all right now," Miss Temple ton said when she attended the first rehearsal. "I'm even an ounce or two under

150. I thought the first eighteen pounds

were bad enough. But the last two were

Then she declared that nothing could ever enduce her to undertake such a cure again, and she has kept her word until with the exception of May Irwin she is probably the fattest actress on the stage.

twenty years later—she is as slight as she ever was. When flesh threatened to be-NEVER SO MANY HERE SO EARLY come a drawback, Miss Russell reduced herself by diet to a moderate extent. Once she had reached proportions that were no damage to her beauty she resumed a Shops and the Theatres Are the Sights normal regimen of food and drink and stuck to it. Her efforts to remain the size she liked were then confined to athletic exercises. She has one room fitted up In spite of the torrid weather of the

as a gymnasium, and works an hour every day in this room. Other women have fitted up private gymnasiums before and expected to get thin from the mere possession of the apart-ment. Miss Russell's gymnasium is constantly used and serves a very practical

purpose. Mrs. Langtry, who is very slim this sea son, preserves her youthful outlines almost entirely by means of exercise. This is her first occupation in the morning. Her maid always opens the windows of her drawing room. Then, wearing very thin woollen underwear specially put up for this purpose, Mrs. Langtry goes through a series of motions which she has practised for years. Standing up, she toucher the floor with the tips of her fingers twenty times, keeping her body rigid, except at the waist. Then she performs similar evolutions, always with her arms outstretched.

She makes no particular sacrifices at dinner, save that she usually avoids sweets and always gives the preference to substantial and plain food.

"I tried the Schweninger treatment once," Mrs. Langtry said the other day, "and I concluded from the way I felt for a year afterward that I needed plenty of food, whatever might happen. The other Sunday I felt I had eaten rather too hearty a luncheon, and although it was pouring rain I felt that I must have exercise. So my brother and I walked from the Hotel Netherland to Claremont and back. We of people have been coming in to book were almost the only people in Central Park, and the policemen looked astonished to see us walking through the rain. But felt splendid afterward. I would always rather take any muscular exercise like that than try to reduce my size by starvation." Shapeliness is more important to a woman

in this country than in any other. Singers in Germany, and to a certain degree in France, may grow to almost any size without lessening the affection in which they are held by their admirers. Amalia Materna was a best supporters the theatres have just monstrosity of flesh in the later years of now. her career, but she would have been singing Kundry and Isolde to this day if her voice had not failed. Many of the German singers are heroic in size, but it has never occurred to them that their proportions are not ideal for the characters they are portray-

But for the American public they can be too large. Minnie Tracey learned this when, after having grown very large without alienating her French admirers, she came to sing in New York. Then she had to go home to get thin. Here corpulency is nearly always fatal and has to be got rid of in one way or another. The only important thing is the selection of the best way of doing it.

TASTE AS TO OYSTERS.

Various Ways in Which the Bivalves Are Abused by Various Consumers.

From the Washington Evening Star. The oyster season is now open and the luscious bivalves are on the market in good numbers. How to eat oysters is a problem that has been the lifetime study of the pro prietor of an avenue hostelry. Nowhere in the city is this burning problem more fully threshed out than in this oyster headquarters, where have gathered earnest worshippers at the shrine oysterial for so long a time that men's reputations as connoisseurs are proved only by years. When they die and are forgotten in other walks of life you can still hear them spoken of admiringly if their ability oyster choices were not worthy of the quiet, constant patrons of the place.
"Strange," said the host the other day,

for he is more the host than the proprietor the difference in taste shown by lovers of oysters in the matter of serving their favorite My patrons-I might almost say clients show especial difference in the matter

of the raw oyster.
"Don't be surprised when I tell you that horseradish, tabasco, Worcestershire, vine-gar, catsup, celery salt, lemon, Cayenne and black pepper, sait, melted butter, sugar and even olive oil are used individually and in a wonderful variety of combinations as condiments of raw oysters.

"Horseradish and lemon have supplanted the old-fashioned vinegar, salt and pepper combination, and I might say fully 75 per cent. of oyster lovers use them, and them alone, to give zest to their oysters. But imagine a preparation of powdered sugar and sweet oil on a raw oyster. I have seen it scores of times. Worse than that, a mixture scores of times. Worse than that, a mixture of French mustard and tomato catsup or melted butter and sugar, with a sprinkling of Cayenne. These are no more unusual with those who eat oysters six days in a week than is the practice of submerging an innocent oyster in a red bath of tomato catsup.

"This gave rise to the question one day by one of a party of four to another: What sort of oyster do you usually eat with your catsup?"

"Olive oil has become a fad with some in oyster service. Requests for oysters fried in olive oil or olive oil in stew and roast are frequent. The several condiments I have named are used extensively in fancy stews and roasts.

are frequent. The several condiments I have named are used extensively in fancy stews and roasts.

"A lawyer whose name for many years was most celebrated in the list of criminal lawyers at the local bar used to have his oysters brought to him in the pan, so that he might prepare a sauce of horseradish, Worcestershire, tabasco and mustard, in which the bivalves were stewed. Another, also a jurist of note, insisted upon a generous addition of sugar to every stew. The color of an oyster and even the appearance of its shell are made points of preference. One insists that each oyster shell shall be scrubbed and all seaweeds and dark sea growth removed; another insists upon those bearing the most barnacles.

"A peculiar fallacy is the matter of color of the oyster itself. Now, an oyster takes its color from its shell. If the shell be dark, so is the oyster, and if light the same rule holds good. Few persons know that if the darkest oyster is rubbed gently with a piece of linen it soon becomes white and clear. There is absolutely no difference, as far as taste and wholesomeness are concerned, between a light and a dark oyster, popular opinion to the contrary notwithstanding.

"When you depart from the realm of oysters raw you enter into a problem of plain milk Beston and hor stews.

orined, opinion to the contrary notwithstanding.

"When you depart from the realm of oysters raw you enter into a problem of plain milk, Boston and box stews, shell roasts, roasts on toast, broils, broils on toast, Baltimore broils and many others, clear to the line of oyster cocktails and oyster omelets. I find the real oyster lover, however, the connoisseur, takes his oysters more or leas straight, and principally in two styles. The first is raw, with the tiniest dash of lemon juice or horseradish, and the second, and to my mind the very best of all, the shell roast, with a little melted butter and a little salt and pepper.

"One who has a fondness for oysters to begin with never tires of the savory delights of a shell roast. With impunity and without a fear of ever growing sated or tired, one can eat oystess raw or oysters roasted in the shell 385 days out of every year, with the added day in leap year.

He had risked his life to rescue the fair maid from a watery grave, and, of course, her father was duly grateful.
"Young man," he said, "I can never thank you sufficiently for your heroic act. You incoursed an awful risk in saving my only daughter." daughter."
"None whatever, sir," replied the amateur lifesaver. "I am siready married."

From the Chicago Daily News.

Off for Europe at 112. From the Tabasco (Mexico) Tageblatt Our oldest subscriber Don Robustiano siglo de los Siglos of Chiapas, dropped in the other day to renew his subscription. He has been on our books since 1848, and at the age of 113 is en route to Europe with his third wile and six children.

TO SEE THE SIGHTS.

They Like Best-Monuments Not in It,

but the Show Restaurants Are Ever

an Attraction—So Is a Great Jeweller's

early part of last week, which made even

seasoned New Yorkers gasp, it was noticed

that the city's thoroughfares were never

more crowded with strangers. They were

here in shoals and they "did" the town

Undeniably this is the time of year when

New York expects and receives a crowd of

visitors. There is nothing new about that.

Where the surprise comes in is that the

crowd should be so much larger than usual,

and that a soaring thermometer seems

to have no effect whatever on their pro-

Perhaps the only persons displea

make their trips on schedule time.

by the advent of so many strangers are

the trolley conductors, who say they can't

"Why, those women from the South want

to keep a car standing while they visit

each other," growled one conductor.

"One of them told me the other day that

in Washington conductors always waited

for ladies to say good-by to their friends

when alighting from a car. Just think

And he pulled the bell rope viciously

"If it wasn't for the strangers in town,"

seller soon becomes expert on accenta-

looked ready to drop."

full

gramme

with an energy worthy of all admiration.

Walls of Two Halls Bared After More Than a Century.

From the Boston Evening Transcript. BIG \$2 A DAY HOUSE. What Boston Commons and its elms are to Boston people, the Harvard yard and its ivy are to Harvard men. And when, at very infrequent intervals, anything happens to the yard and the ivy, the outery from old "grads" is as loud and long as is the storm of remonstrance that periodically arises over the conduct of the Common. But now the Harvard yard has met with a loss as irreparable as that to the Common when the fine row of elms bordering ugon Tre-mont street, had to fall before the burrowing of the subway. Two of the finest walls of ivy in the yard have been torn down and cut off at the roots, and the brick walls, that used to be covered with a mass of green leaves sparkling brightly in the sun from early spring until late in the fall, are bare. The destruction of this ivy, which used to cover the south wall of Massachusetts Hall from foundation to the roof, and the east wall of Harvard Hall from the ground to the very peak of the ridgepole, was not malicious, but was brought about by force of circumstances.

Except for the destruction of some of the ouildings themselves, or the cutting down of some of the trees, nothing could make such a change in the appearance of that part of the yard as the removal of the ivy from Massachusette and Harvard. Massachusetts is the oldest building in the yard and some of the stalks of the ivy where it has been out off near the ground, two or three inches in diameter, show that it was not long after 1720, when the building was erected. that the ivy first began its climb. Doubt-

inches in diameter, show that it was not long after 1720, when the building was erected, that the ivy first began its climb. Doubtless many of the plants were sturdy young growths when Gen. Washington took command of the Colonial troops at the nearby famous elm, since named after the father of his country. Other plants were likely the forgotten memorials of distant classes whose ivy orations meant something beyond the delivery of a flowery and supposedly witty oration within Sanders Theatre. The ivy on Massachusetts was not as consplcuous by any means as that on Harvard Hall, from the fact that it did not face the yard.

The bank of English ivy on the end of Harvard Hall was about the most noticeable thing in that part of the yard. Just inside the Johnston gate it was fianked by old Hollis Hall on the one side and by Massachusetts on the other. Its roots were as deep and its vine as heavy as that on Massachusetts, although Harvard Hall is some forty-five years younger than the one across the way. When the ivy was removed a few days ago it was found that the wall was simply plastered with the accumulated dust of years. In some places the layer of dirt was from two to three inches thick and baked as solid as plaster. With the removal of the vines this dirt had to be scraped away, allowing the red bricks to come to light after being covered up for perhaps a hundred years.

The cause of the removal of these two fine banks of ivy goes back to last winter. After more than a century of weathering New England winters, withering in the late fall, only to spring up brightly in the early spring, and to reach full bloom by class day and commencement, the sturdy old vines had to give way last winter. In the spring, up to banks of ivy goes back to last winter. Notwithstanding their experience of years the old vines made a mistake at last and let the tender young shoots uncover themselves. Then there came a prolonged season of cold, raw weather and the vine ways and to weather and the vine wards cleaned. Of course the ivy wil remarked the ticket seller in the box office of a Broadway theatre, eyeing his wilted collar ruefully in a small side mirror, "the theatres would have done a pretty slim business during the last ten days. As it is, we have had full houses every night. Even tc-day" [and he mopped his brow], "droves seats, including parties of women who "Judging by their accent-and a ticket I should say that most of the strangers are from the West and South. But wherever they come from, none grumbles at the prices, and most of them accept thank-

fully any sort of a seat offered so long as they can see the show. Strangers are the Few of the best known hotels are any more crowded than is usual at this time of the year, for the simple reason that they never were known to have a spare room anywhere around September. At the same time the demand for rooms has been brisker than usual. As one room clerk admitted, visiting delegations of X. Y. Z.'s and A. B. C.'s, to say nothing of the Dressmakers' Convention, which attracted almost as many women of leisure as it did dressmakers, have helped to pack some hostelries which otherwise might only have been comfortably

INDIAN MAGIC.

A Trick That Mystified Lord Lytton, and

One That Didn't Work.

From Longman's Magazine.

The following story of Indian magic was

told me by the person to whom it was told

miliating, reason that I have mislaid the

When in India Lord Lytton often sought

space before his house. After the ordinary

if he could not do something more out of the

common way. The man said he would try, and

asked for a ring, which Lord Lytton gave

was sesame, the name of the other sort my informant did not know. Holding these

LIVING WITH A TARANTULA.

For Six Months the Big Spider Terrorized

and Eluded a Family.

From the Philadelphia Record.

tropics was despatched at the home of Wil-

liam Zink, at Hudson and Willow streets,

Gloucester city, yesterday, after it had ter-rorized the family for a period of six months.

Zink was a former fruit dealer, and one

day a half year ago while he was handling

a bunch of bananas the huge spider hopped

out and escaped. Zink and members of

time, but without avail, and then concluded

that it had gone out into the wide world.

Not long after that, however, the tarantula

Not long after that, however, the tarantula was discovered in the house, and again chase was given it, but once more it escaped by hiding.

At intervals ever since then the tarantula had been seen at various places through the dwelling, but in every instance it managed to elude its pursuers, who began to have creepy feelings every time they saw anything move in a shadowy place. It got to be a reign of terror in the house, but no one seemed able to find the thing that menaged them.

An ugly, venomous tarantula from the

At a Fifth avenue hotel, packed for the time being with transients, it was said that the majority of them are on the way to other cities from seashore and mountains. Some are just back from Europe and are staying for a few days before moving on to other points.

"How do the strangers amuse themselves?" the proprietor was asked. "Looking at skyscrapers and monuments is hot work on 'ays like these."

by the late Lord Lytton. I give it in my "Why, bless your heart," he replied, "I never overheard one of them speak of own words, for the excellent, though inspecting anything but the stores and manuscript. theatres. They seem to spend every minout conjurors, but never saw any but the ute from morning till night shopping, and after that it's the play. If on the last day and the basket trick. The method in each case is known, or, at all events, plausible explanations have been given by Mr. Masof their stay they have a couple of hours to spare, maybe Grant's tomb and Central kelyne and other experts. On one occasion Park get a little attention, but I have never

"We have a good many young reople staying here now and almost invariably they first ask the way to a certain noted iewelry establishment instead of inquiring about the sightseeing automobile."

It was learned that at this particular him. He then requested an officer to take jeweller's there is a steady stream of noted in either hand a handful of seeds; one sort sight seers among the customers. They want to gaze first of all at tiaras, necklaces and stomachers costing fortunes, and then at prize winners in silver and china art objects Incidentally, the visitors leave a good deal of money at the store,

"Not in the fifteen years I have been here have I seen so many strangers around so early with no particular magnet to draw them," said the manager of a leading department store. "Last Saturday afternoon I took a walk from West Nineteenth street up Broadway to Thirty-fourth street, then to Fifth avenue and down again to Fourteenth street, and it seemed to me that every other person I met was a stranger seeing the sights. As for this store, I doubt if I could find half a dozen of our regular customers in the building if I made the rounds."

The store folk are all the better pleased that the strangers come so early in the season. As a rule, it takes a lot more time to wait on strangers than on New Yorkers The former are curious to see everything. and they take a long time to make up their minds what to buy. They can't see any reason for hurrying.

Of course, a large proportion of the strangers take particular pains to "do" the principal restaurants, including those in out-of-the-way districts. They seem to feel it a duty they owe to themselves As a result, some of the restaurant waiters have interesting tales to tell. From time to time some of the feminine visitors, unescorted by a masculine protector, go away from these bitterly disappointed. There are in town just now three pretty Southern women who have found out that although they may lunch to the limit of their pocketbooks or their credit at any restaurant in New York, to dine at the swellest of them is quite another story. unless a man escorts them.

A host in themselves are the stranger who have come to New York to stay-to earn a living, to study art or the industries, as the case may be. There are more women in the number than usual, if the lodging house keepers for women and the woman's hotel people judge correctly. As a rule, these girls and women give the Fifth avenue restaurants a wide berth and pin their affections to cheap tables d'hôte and

Fortunately, nearly every one of the bright faced, hopeful looking visitors, no matter how low her exchequer may be, brings along a bountiful stock of courage. She will need it before she finishes with

From the Japan Weekly Matt.
In 1899 a girl of 18 was murdered in Osaka, having

suffered indignities at the hands of her assassin. The police arrested a youth of 18 on suspicion, and he, having confessed, was brought up for trial. Owing, however, to insufficient evidence the accused, Matsuura, was acquitted. He has lived ever since under a social ban, the public being convinced of his guilt. But now suddenly, four years after the event, a burglar charged with a major crime has confessed that he was the perpetrator of the outrage and murder, and Matsuura, ques-tioned as to why he made such a confession, al-leges that he was tortured by the police beyond all endurance. It is this last phase of the affair that orantes excitement, for the accusation against the Dolles does not stand alone

HARVARD IVIES GONE.

Is Needed to Accommodate the Crowds of Buyers Who Come Twice a Year -Would Cost a Fortune and Merchants Say, Would Be Always Full. Downtown merchants say that the hotel New York needs most is a great two-dollara-day house, with every convenience, with

THE 1,000-ROOM HOTEL WANTED

CALLS FROM MERCHANTS FOR A

1.000 well-lighted guest rooms and with a great dining hall where good meals could be served for 25 and 50 cents. The hotel might be erected anywhere between Sixtythird street and Forty-second street and a little west of Broadway.

"Is there any man acquainted with New York's floating population who doubts that it would be filled the year round? says an advocate of the 1,000-room hotel. And being filled, even at the low rates quoted, can there be a question of its financial success? New York merchants are very decided on one point: this hotel is what they want, what they think the city wants more than anything else."

To go into the suggestion for the hotel more in detail: It should be as short a distance west of Broadway as land can be reasonably secured. The chief object is to have 1,000 rooms that are comfortable.

These rooms would be of the same size, about 10x16 feet, that is, a large hall room. They would be built in pairs, so that two connecting rooms and a bath might be had. There should be a bath for every four, or perhaps for every two, rooms.

The top floor should be given over to the dining room. This could be made so attractive that a large number of people not staying at the hotel would resort to it. A good breakfast or luncheon would be erved for 25 cents, dinner for 50 cents. An eating room of the quick lunch variety

would be conducted in the basement. There would be a bar. Nothing about the hotel would be cheap in the offensive sense of the word. Its appointments and service would equal those of any \$3 or \$3.50 house in

The erection of such a hotel would cost fortune.

"I could not make a figure on it without giving the matter many hours of work," an architect who has drawn the plans for several New York hotels said, "but I should say it would cost \$2,000,000 to put it up.

You would have to count on ten stories at least for those 1,000 rooms. Then there are your dining floor and your office and lobby. It might be done for less, but not much less, I think." The architect mentioned a popular Broad-

way hotel which lets few rooms go at less than \$2 on the European plan, and said: "That hotel cost just a little less than 42

cents a cubic foot, and it is by no means an expensive structure. Building in New York would cost only a little more to-day than it did several years ago when this hotel was put up. I am comparing your proposed hotel, which would be on a larger and at the same time more economical scale, with this one when I guess \$2,000,000. "As to the demand for new hotels, there

is little need of argument to convince those New Yorkers who come into touch with the great transient population of the city. of the most popular hotels in lower Manhattan turned away thousands of would-be guests. More than one hotel had to turn away over one hundred a day for several days running."

The merchants who meet the greatearmy of buyers that invades the city at this sason are hearty in their approval of the heal usual feats, such as the mango tree trick project as sketched above.

"Why, our salesmen receive hundreds of letters every season," said John C. Eames, manager of the H. B. Claffin Company, "asking them to secure just such accommo-Lytton liked something in the looks of dations as this hotel would give. In only a few cases can they do it. They place many of the visiting merchants in boarding exhibition, his Lordship asked the magician

"I am sure such a hotel would be very popular-sure it could be filled practically all the time. It would be a success. "For my part, though," Mr. Eames continued, "I should like to see a big hotel informant did not know. Holding these seeds and having the ring between his finger and thumb, the officer was to go to a well in the corner of the compound. He was to dispose of the seeds in a certain way—I think on the low wait round the west, into the depth of which he was to throw the ring. All this was done, and then the magi asked Lord Lytton where he would like the ring to reappear. He answered "in my despatch box," of which the key was attached to his watch chain, or, at all events, he had it with him on the spot. The despatch box was brought out. Lord Lytton opened it, and there was the ring. like that go up downtown. I mean well

below Fourteenth street. "A great many buying merchants still want to stay down here. I think a popular priced hotel, either below Fourteenth street or between Twenty-third and Forty-second streets, would be a great success." "Most of our people," said George C. Clark of the Tefft-Weller Company, "want

to get above Twenty-third street nowadays. There is where the life is at night, and the theatres. I think a hotel above that point would take better.

"As for filling it, there can't be a shadow of a doubt on that score. It could be filled twice court the year round." twice over the year round.

"It is true, however, that a number of merchants like to put up below Fourteenth street. And every good hotel is crowded

"Good rooms, even though small, at a dollar—that's what thousands want who come to New York. A good hotel that supplied them would help us all—it would make them stay longer and come more

on the spot. The despatch box was brought out. Lord Lytton opened it, and there was the ring.

This trick would be easy if the British officer was a confederate of the Juggler's, and if he possessed a duplicate key to the despatch box. In that case he would not throw the ring into the well, but would take it into the house, open the box and insert the ring. But this explanation involves enormous improbabilities, while it is unlikely, again, that the conjuror managed to insert a duplicate ring into the despatch box beforehand Lord Lytton then asked the juggler if he could repeat the trick. He answered in the affirmative, and a lady lent another ring. Another officer took it, with the seeds, as before, and dropped the ring into the well. The countenance of the juggler altered in the pause which followed. Something, he said, had gone wrong, and he seemed agitated. Turning to the second officer he said: "Did you arrange the seeds as I bade you?" "No," said the officer, "I thought that was nonsense, and I threw them away." The juggler scemed horrified. "Do you think I do this by myself?" he said, and, packing up, he departed.

The well was carefully dragged, and at last the lady's ring was brought to the surface. That ring, at least, had certainly been in the water. But had the first ring been as faithfully consigned to the depths? Experts will be of various opinions as to that, yet the hypothesis of confederacy and of a duplicate key to the despatch box is difficult. often. J. E. Nichols of Austin, Nichols & Co. was emphatic in his expression of belief that such a hotel would be welcomed. "They could surely fill it as soon as they opened it," he said. "I am sure it would be welcomed very heartily. Quite a number of our customers go to high-priced hotels, but we have many who wish for just such a stopping place as this hotel would supply."

supply."
George Putnam, manager for Sweeteer, Pembroke & Co., expressed the opinion that a big hotel with rooms at a dollar a day would be a success and greatly benefit

New York.

"The merchants would bring their wives more often," he said. "And they would stay longer, giving more time to sight-seeing and pleasure. Many of them would come oftener, too."

Maryon Garrin, one of Sweetser Pem-

Meyer Garvin, one of Sweetser, Pembroke & Co.'s head salesmen, also believes in the hotel.

"We have hundreds of merchants who are anxious for just such a place. It would help us all and supply a keenly felt want," he said.

Showing only the merchants' view of the problem leaves one point open to question. Could the hotel be filled every day in the year as well as during the two yearly seasons for buying goods? These seasons last about two months each.

The great numbers brought to the city by the Marchants' Association and its cut

by the Merchants' Association and its cut rates come in droves, and this tends to make the rush season shorter than it ever was. The number who come on merchants was. The number who come on merchants' rates is growing larger every season.

At the same time, even looking only to buying merchants for patronage, several New York merchants say that there would, in their opinion, befenough to keep the 1,000 rooms of the hotel occupied the year rotain.

Many merchants come out of season. Thousands from comparatively nearly places.

Many merchants come out of season. Thousands from comparatively nearby places come independently of any excursion and try to avoid the rush periods.

Then there are, of course, people visiting New York every day who are not merchants. There are enough to fill the hotel, most New Yorkers will agree.

Would it pay? Conducted in the manner of the most popular New York hotels of about double the proposed rate, and granted that it would be filled every day, would it pay?

to be a reign of terror in the house, but no one seemed able to find the thing that menaced them.

Just as he and his wife were about to retire on Saturday night Zink once more caught sight of the tarantula as it clung to a picture frame in his bedroom.

"Ha!" cried Zink. "I have you at last, you pesky varmint!" and he made a heroic effort to do the thing to death.

The hugs insect seemed to wink at him as it dodged behind the picture frame and mysteriously disappeared like a ghost or some other horrid creation of the fancy. Sure that he was on the trail of the insect Zink got up early yesterday morning, determined to rid the house of the creature. He searched in every possible crevice and cranny, and at last, after two hours of uncessing scrutiny, he came upon the spider crouched in a little crevice in the wall where it may have hidden all these months. Zink killed it and proudly exhibits the hairy body at his home. It measures ever five inches The ground would be costly, the cost of

construction would amount to \$2,000,000
But there is the big dining hall to consider.
That should make money. And then there is the bar. The bar of a hotel with a thousand guestal This, also, might help